

have had interests in common, would of course have been an entirely different thing.

I thoroughly liked and respected almost all the various kings and queens I met; they struck me as serious people, with charming manners, devoted to their people and anxious to justify their own positions by the way they did their duty—it is no disparagement to their good intentions and disinterestedness to add that each sovereign was obviously conscious that he was looking a possible republic in the face, which was naturally an incentive to good conduct; I was very glad to have met them; and it was pleasant to see them for a short while; but longer intercourse, or renewed intercourse, would have been unnatural unless there had been, as there was not, some real intellectual interest, or other bond in common, and if there was any such, it happened not to develop itself.

I was much amused, by the way, when I reached Rome, at finding that our Ambassador was engaged in an intricate controversy with the puffy-faced, entirely pompous and well-meaning local baron who was Court Marshal or Master of Ceremonies, or something of the sort; the Ambassador wishing to have me treated with the courtesies granted a visiting sovereign, and the Court Marshal taking the entirely proper view that I was simply a private citizen, with no title or no claim to any precedence. I hastily interfered, telling the Ambassador that I absolutely shared the views of his opponent, that I wished him himself to act upon, and to notify all our other ambassadors that they

were to act
upon, the theory that I was purely a private
citizen, with
no claim to any position of precedence at all,
and that at
any function, formal or informal, I should be.
perfectly
happy to walk or sit or stand anywhere, and
below any one,
just as the local people desired—or not to
appear at all,
unless they expressly wished it. I added that I
was really
speaking less in a spirit of humility than of
pride. I have
a hearty and sincere respect for a king who
does his duty
and acts decently, and am delighted to show
him any kind
of formal courtesy which is customary; but I
have no pa-